

REPORT TO: PLANNING & TRANSPORT COMMITTEE - 9 JUNE 2008

REPORT ON: CYCLING, WALKING AND SAFER STREETS (CWSS) PROJECTS COMMENCING 2008-2009

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION

REPORT NO: 286-2008

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval for a programme of works for the year 2008-2009 funded from additional grant capital ring fenced by the Scottish Government for Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets (CWSS) projects.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee approve the proposed programme of works for the year 2008-2009.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Scottish Government has made available to Dundee City Council an additional capital grant of £249,000 for the year 2008-2009 for CWSS projects. The programme of works recommended in this report will fully utilise this finance.

4 BACKGROUND

4.1 Introduction

During April and May 2001, the Scottish Executive announced an additional £14.85 million over a 3 period for local authorities across Scotland for Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets (CWSS) initiatives. Subsequently, this funding across Scotland has been extended and Section 70 grants have been offered for each financial year up to April 2009.

4.2 Objectives and Criteria

- a The Scottish Government expect the CWSS fund to be used to give greater prominence to cycling, walking and safer streets projects to help local authorities achieve the aims and objectives they have been set out in their Local Transport Strategies.
- b Based on relevant components in Dundee's Local Transport Strategy, Committee report 149-2002 describes an overall common objective for CWSS schemes as being:

"To physically improve access to walking and cycling facilities and reduce danger (actual or perceived) to pedestrians and cyclists."

- c To follow the common objective given above (in report 149-2002) Committee adopted the following criteria devised for CWSS as policy:

A CWSS scheme must either:

- i physically improve access of walking and cycling facilities; and/or
- ii reduce danger (actual or perceived) to pedestrians and cyclists.

4.3 Schemes

Utilising these criteria, the following types of schemes have been identified:

a Lowered Kerbs/Footway Improvements

Dundee has a good network of footways and footpaths, but they are not always accessible to vulnerable pedestrians ie the elderly and children. Lowered kerbs and improved footways at suitable points can significantly improve walking opportunities for this sector of Dundee's community. This project will improve accessibility and reduce danger to the most vulnerable in our society.

Finance Allocated: £100,000.

b Pedestrian Access and Safety Measures

Improvements to existing pedestrian crossing facilities and new infrastructure proposals to improve accessibility and safety for pedestrians. Improvements to existing pedestrians crossing began in 2006-2007. This project will improve accessibility and reduce danger to pedestrians.

Finance allocated: £99,000

c Outdoor Access

The Outdoor Access Strategy Group has identified a number of projects and priorities. The precise locations where this funding will be utilised will be decided jointly by the Directors of Leisure and Communities and Planning and Transportation. This Project will therefore improve accessibility for cyclists and pedestrians.

Finance Allocated: £30,000

d Cycling

The number of "missing links" have been identified in the cycling network where there is demand for use. This project will therefore improve accessibility for cyclists.

Finance Allocated: £20,000

5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

The major issues identified are:

- a the programme of works recommended within this report will promote cycling, walking and safer streets, thereby reducing car dependence and improving air quality in line with sustainable policy for Transport and Travel; and
- b the works will also promote safety for vulnerable road users such as child pedestrians and cyclists, thus ensuring that the local road network meets the transport needs of all road users.

6 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Head of Finance and Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Dundee City Council - Local Transport Strategy - October 2000.
- 7.2 Dundee City Council - Planning and Transport Committee Report No 149-2002.

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